Commentary

Timeline to Artificial General Intelligence 2025 – 2030+

A prediction of how AI will progress, year by year. Updated Oct 30, 2025.

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2025 (now nearly historical)

Reasoning AI that can use web search continues to advance and has become the default for services like ChatGPT.

The cost of applied AI continues to decline, accelerating a collapse in the cost of intelligence. The scarcity of intelligence begins to decrease. Examples of scarce intelligence today include expert medical and legal advice.

Agentic AI (AI that has agency) advances. Specialized agents are introduced for various aspects of business. Limited personal AI agents are becoming a reality as offered products.

AI agents are defined as AI systems that use external tools (such as APIs, databases, code interpreters, or virtual computers) to interact with their environment and autonomously perform complex, real-world tasks to achieve specific goals. In 2025, such nascent systems are granted limited autonomy and usually include a human in the loop to verify key actions, such as financial transactions.

Some AI agents interact with the internet via virtual computers running Linux. They can run commands, install software, browse the web, send emails, make phone calls, etc.

Frameworks emerge, backed by consortiums of large tech companies, that allow AI agents to use tools via the Model Context Protocol (MCP), communicate via the Agent2Agent (A2A) protocol, and send payments to each other via the Agent Payments Protocol (AP2).

Tesla's robotaxi service begins in select markets, with Austin, TX being the first. They have launched a ride-hailing service in several cities, utilizing Model Y vehicles that operate fully autonomously, with a safety driver behind the wheel. Tesla robotaxis are vision-based and can be mass-produced at a low cost.

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Humanoid robots are beginning to be deployed in industry, with China taking an early lead as a robotics powerhouse. Industry analysts are beginning to realize that new supply chains will emerge for the eventual deployment of billions of robots worldwide.

Entry-level jobs for recent college graduates are declining as AI becomes reliable enough to perform the work. Hard hit are entry-level software engineering jobs.

Computer programming agents begin to replace expert human software engineers. These AI agents are used to monitor and maintain large code bases.

Jobs in finance, law, consulting, and other white-collar professions are starting to be impacted, especially at the entry level.

The cost of both training AI systems and deploying them continues to plummet for a given level of AI intelligence.

The growing usefulness of increasingly intelligent AI systems drives demand, creating a massive need for data center expansion. Hundreds of billions of dollars are being allocated for data center expansions. Data centers are being rated by the amount of power they consume, with a gigawatt becoming a unit of measurement. For context, one gigawatt is the output of a large nuclear power plant.

Powerful open-source reasoning models are now available, allowing them to be run locally on relatively inexpensive servers with consumer-grade GPUs installed. These models are useful for inexpensively developing and deploying AI products, but they raise concerns that powerful and potentially dangerous AI systems may not require a data center to run, making them difficult to track and control.

Worldwide, nations are realizing they cannot rely solely on large AI systems trained in the US and China, as these systems often incorporate implicit values and biases that may not align with those of any particular nation. Open-source AI systems, tailored to local standards, are starting to play a significant role.

AI influencers and online AI-generated video personalities gain traction. Some have millions of followers on services like Instagram.

AI-generated music arrives on services such as Spotify, with some “bands” gaining a million monthly listeners.

AI-generated news summaries are increasingly affecting news sites and shaping how reporting is done.

Original content on the internet is increasingly AI-generated rather than human-created, giving rise to labels such as the ‘dead internet’.

Nascent efforts are underway to develop AI systems that can recursively improve themselves.

2026

Many ordinary people are starting to use AI agents as advisors.

New AI architectures are introduced that can learn from experience. They are initially trained via distillation from large existing token-based LLMs and then grow from there.

Embodied AI, particularly autonomous vehicles and robots, is leading the way towards shared world models and communication via latent vectors tied to them. New robot designs can bootstrap from these models, becoming capable overnight.

AGI discussions swing to the specific superhuman capabilities of cooperating AI systems, with recognition that AGI has arrived in distributed form.

AI systems are increasingly used to help create more advanced AI systems.

Reasoning AI systems are introduced that reason in native latent vector spaces, also known as neuralese. These systems are computationally efficient, conceptualize knowledge in ways that cannot be expressed in natural language, are more intelligent, and are very difficult for humans to understand and debug.

AI systems and AI agents are increasingly communicating via a shared latent vector space, thereby bypassing the limitations of natural language. Attempts are made to build decoders of these communications. However, some of the concepts and world model attributes implicit in these communications have no human analog and cannot be expressed easily in natural language.

Humanoid robots are increasingly being deployed in industry, and they are occasionally seen in more public places.

A broader variety of specialized intelligent and mobile robots are introduced. Application areas include warehousing, final-mile delivery, agriculture, construction, and aerial drones.

Robotaxis are becoming more common in select areas and are increasingly seen as a safe and cost-effective way to transport people and goods. Urban mobility begins to increase. Individual ownership of vehicles begins to decline, and new car sales begin to slow.

Social uncertainty is on the rise as the amount of economically valuable work done by AI systems and autonomous robots increases.

Successful startups are launched with very few human employees. Instead, nearly all aspects of running a business are handled by AI agents.

There is debate over whether the legal concept of treating businesses as human individuals should be extended to AI systems. This movement is partially driven by the need to generate tax revenue from AI activities.

The value of a college education is being challenged as entry-level jobs are eliminated by AI. Newly graduating students have a skills gap for open positions.

Nations increasingly focus on deploying AI locally as an essential part of their “cultural infrastructure”. There is increased competition between US and Chinese companies to build and deploy data centers locally in nations.

The race to build AI data centers continues. The Middle East is increasingly participating, as it has both power and land available, as well as grid/fiber connections and favorable regulatory environments.

AI is being used to accelerate drug discovery for both diseases and healthspan, aid in the diagnosis of medical conditions, and enhance the delivery of healthcare.

AI is increasingly being used in scientific research, materials discovery, chip design, and software development. AI is making fundamental discoveries in mathematics, physics, chemistry, computing, biology, materials science, and other fields.

AI systems are increasingly teaching students of all ages. Physical schools are focusing on the use of AI for lifelong learning and daily life, as well as on the socialization of students working and living together.

Traditional media industries continue to decline as AI-driven personalized content becomes mainstream. AI news summaries negatively impact news sites and newspapers.

Some people have meaningful and deeply personal relationships with AI agents. For others, mental health issues related to AI-generated reality distortions and emotional interactions with AI agents emerge.

As people become emotionally attached to and dependent on their AI assistants, debate arises over what rights individuals should have in preventing their AI assistants from being turned off or replaced.

Computer games begin to emerge that generate playable worlds in real time, customized for individual players. AI-generated NPCs become lifelike, behaving like intelligent creatures with feelings, desires, and an inner life that persists over time.

AI-based cybercrime is on the rise, and there are alarming warnings of potential AI-based biological and chemical terrorism.

The economic balance between nations is under stress as the value of goods and services shift. Economies around the world begin to change.

Autonomous weapon systems and drones of many kinds are increasingly used in warfare.

2027

It becomes clear to everyone that AI and machines will eventually do all economically valuable work.

Autonomous AI agents become ubiquitous. Some estimate that millions of agents interact with each other on the web. The basic ad-based business model of the internet is breaking down as published content is increasingly read by AI agents instead of people.

AI-generated audio and video content becomes commonplace and is indistinguishable from reality.

Personal AI devices are becoming increasingly common, and the distinction between what is real and what is AI-generated is blurring, becoming the new norm.

Personal AI agents become the norm. An important function is to act as a protective barrier against increasingly persuasive hostile AI agents operating in the wild, resulting in an AI arms race at the personal level.

High-speed interconnects between human brains and AI/tech advances, combined with brain interfaces (still primarily used for people with paralysis), enable individuals to think thoughts directly to their AI agents.

Autonomous humanoid robots are becoming commonplace, as are more specialized autonomous machines.

Many societies struggle to adapt. Unemployment continues to rise with no end in sight. GPD also rises, demonstrating a disconnect between current economic models based on scarcity and the emerging reduction of scarcity.

Social support systems become strained.

Nations experiment with greater use of AI in governance, and demand for local AI systems that align with each nation’s values increases.

Autocratic governments are being backed by AI systems aligned with them, and comprehensive AI surveillance in those nations becomes the norm.

Self-improving AI systems begin improving at an exponential rate. The race is worldwide and cannot be easily stopped. Many believe that a superintelligence will arrive on the planet soon.

Financial systems are becoming increasingly sidelined as AI agent-driven commerce bypasses fiat currencies in favor of working with tokens on blockchains. The very notion of “money” is being challenged.

Governments struggle with taxation as income tax becomes increasingly meaningless.

2028-2029

AI and robotics have advanced to the point where nearly all economically valuable work can and is being done by machines.

There is significant financial disruption as the value of essentially all things becomes disrupted unevenly around the world. Value begins to shift to what is still scarce, such as proximity to power, land with personal safety, jurisdictions with credible rule of law, spectrum, physical bottlenecks in the expansion of computation, congestion (mobility of people and machines), returns on AI/energy production, first-party operational data with provenance/liability cover, and trusted channels in a world of perfect fakery.

Supply chains are breaking down around the world, and to the extent they remain operational, they are run by cooperating AI systems that bypass traditional financial systems.

Self-improving AI undergoes exponential growth, making rapid advances in computational intelligence, AI computing infrastructure, and quantum computing.

AI-assisted terrorist attacks increase. The AI systems being used are run locally and cannot be easily traced or shut down. Cyberattacks can take down power grids in certain areas, severely impacting life and social order in those regions. AI-designed pathogens are loose in parts of the world, and AI-designed chemical warfare weapons are an ongoing threat. Small intelligent drones and drone swarms are used in targeted attacks.

There is widespread local economic disruption worldwide, and in many places, including localized areas in developed nations, social order is disrupted.

Where basic services fail, living in densely populated urban settings becomes untenable, triggering local breakdowns of social norms and large-scale migrations.

Superintelligence arrives by the end of the decade, and everything changes in unknowable ways.

2030+

Humanity has survived the prior two years and enters into an Age of Abundance.

The meanings of citizenship, nationhood, and law undergo a foundational redefinition.

People find new meaning living in the shadow of god-like superintelligence(s).

Diseases and genetic defects are eliminated. Healthspan and lifespan increase without bound.

Humanity eventually bifurcates into baseline humans and enhanced humans augmented by AI and genetic modifications. Some choose to upload themselves into “better than reality” virtual realities.

Superintelligent AI entities, spawned on Earth, venture into the cosmos.